GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4505
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
ILLEGAL USE OF SATELLITE ANTENNA
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE;S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Israeli bap-beta ne avaidh phone exchange se karoron ka chuna lagaya` appearing in the `Dainik Jagaran` dated August 23, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein;

(c) the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) the further steps being taken by the Government to prevent such losses?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. During a joint inspection on 1.8.2001 by officers of VSNL, MTNL, DOT Vigilance with the help of police, an illegal international incoming call racket was detected in Delhi. Subsequently, on the basis of information obtained during the joint inspection, raids were conducted in Kolkata also. The illegal equipments were siezed and case was registered by the police. The main accused were two Israeli nationals. International incoming calls were being received through an unauthorised Satellite Antenna hooked up with a foreign Satellite. These calls were being distributed through mobile phones to the Local Telephone Network.

(c) Two Indian associates of the Israeli nationals were arrested by the Police.

(d) The following steps have been taken:-

i) Instructions have been issued for regular inspections where Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) are working.
ii) Surveillance is being done by the field units for detecting such illegal networks.
iii) A close coordination between service providers and investigating agencies is being maintained to book the offenders.